



UofG Psychology New Student Pre-Arrival Information Pack

Hello and welcome to the School of Psychology & Neuroscience at the University of Glasgow! We're delighted to have you with us and many congratulations on all the hard work you've done to get here. There's no expectation that you will do any reading or preparatory work before you join us in September, however, we know that many of you like to do so voluntarily. This information pack will give you details of course materials, information resources, and social media accounts that you may like to review whilst you're waiting to officially become a member of #TeamUofG in addition to a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Dr. Emily Nordmann

First Year Course Lead

Course structure, content, and assessments

Course structure

There are two Level 1 psychology courses, Psych 1A runs in the first semester and Psych 1B runs in the second semester. Each course is 10 weeks long and for each of those weeks you will have three one-hour lectures per week (with a break for reading week in week 6). For Psych 1A these lectures will cover Research Methods, Biological Psychology, and Cognitive Psychology. For Psych 1B the lectures cover Research Methods, Developmental and Social psychology, and Mental Health and Wellbeing. In addition to the lectures you will also have regular labs where we work on writing skills

and working with data, and you will work as part of a small group and learn the programming language R for data analysis.

Assessments

We use a range of assessments throughout your degree, including several small-stakes and continuous assessments. In the first semester you will complete an essay and a lab portfolio that consists of quizzes, data skills exercises, research participation, and a group project. Finally, at the end of term you will complete an MCQ exam that will assess your knowledge from the lectures.

Levels 2, 3 and 4

More information on the course structure and content of levels 2, 3 and 4 is available on the [Programme Information website](#).

Textbook

At UofG Psychology we believe in using open educational resources wherever possible rather than adding on additional costs for software and/or textbooks.

We use two open-access textbooks for level 1 psychology. You can access these both free of charge online, but there are also print copies available for purchase if you would really like a hard copy (although we'd encourage you to wait and see how much you use either book before spending any money!).

- Textbook 1: [Psychology - OpenStax](#)
 - You can access the book without an account however, if you log in you can make highlights and notes which it will save in your profile.
- Textbook 2: [Discover Psychology 2.0 - A Brief Introductory Text | Noba \(nobaproject.com\)](#)

Finally, our Level 1 practical lab course materials are all available online and [you can access them here](#). In the practical course we will teach you how to work with data using the Programming Language R, and how to conduct psychological research.



Reading List

The reading lists for [Psych 1A](#) (first semester) and [Psych 1B](#) (second semester) can be accessed online . Please be aware that these are the reading lists for 2021-2022 and there may be some changes to content. However, it will give you a good idea of what to expect. Please also note that you may not be able to access some of the content until you have a UofG library account.

Social Media

When it comes to social media, we're quite an active School! Follow us on any or all of the below to keep up with what's happening before you arrive.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uofgpsychneuro/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UofGPsychNeuro>

Facebook Community Hub: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uofgpsychhub>

[Facebook UofG Psych Class of 2022-2026](#)

Inclusivity

Inclusivity is very important to us as a School and we have a number of networks that you can join once you have enrolled.

- LGBTQ Psychology Network
- UofG Neurodiversity Network
- Race and Equality Network

These networks run academic and social events, such as seminars, reading groups, speed-friending, as well as providing student support. For example, members of the LGBTQ Psychology Network offer Rainbow Office Hours where you can talk to an LGBTQ member of staff.

All lectures in Level 1 and 2 will be recorded as we know that they are particularly useful for students with learning disabilities and second language English speakers, but that they also provide flexibility for when you have unavoidable absences (although please note that recordings are provided as a back-up and attendance at lectures is expected - you won't learn as much or get the same university experience if you don't attend!).

Useful tech

The main software we use is Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Office 365. You will be given free access to the full Office 365 suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook etc.) when you get your student account. We recommend that you download the **latest versions** of this software and familiarise yourself with it before teaching begins.

Here are some useful resources and guides.

- [How to use Microsoft Teams \(office.com\)](#)

- [How to use Zoom \(office.com\)](#)
- [How to access Office 365](#)
- [Office 365 training](#)

Whilst you may be familiar with some or all of these already from school, we sometimes find that students tend to be less confident with basic computer skills such as how to set up email and calendar, or how to manage files effectively. Whilst it may feel like focusing on the content of the course and doing pre-reading should be more important, reviewing training resources for these day-to-day computer skills would be a really effective use of your time during the summer!

- [Digital skills course \(free\)](#)
- [Computer basics training](#)
- [Internet basics training](#)

Teaching planning principles

For the last two years, the University has developed planning principles to help guide teaching planning and teaching timetabling activity. The principles have evolved as the external guidance from Scottish Government has altered. For 2022-23, we will be working within a Scottish Government framework that will align Higher Education with other sectors. This is different to the previous two years where there were often notable differences.

Consistent with that framework, the principles for 2022-23 reflect changed expectations of the use of face coverings, the removal of a specific upper limit on class sizes, and the adoption of public health measures that are consistent with other settings. With that though, remains the need for flexibility in the event of future outbreaks or new variants such that face coverings could become mandatory and some other limitations (e.g. on larger gatherings) could be put in place. Please be assured that wording in relation to face coverings both when seated in classes and when moving around, will be updated if required in advance of Semester 1 to ensure consistency with wider University public health measures and messaging at the time.

For more information, please see the [Teaching Planning Principles 2022-2023](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I study subject X alongside psychology/as a joint-degree?

We offer a number of science and arts joint-degrees. You can find details of all the joint-degrees we offer with Psychology on our [Programme Information website](#). Whether you can take a course as an additional subject will depend on if it works with your timetable and if there is space on the course (most courses will prioritise students who need to take the course for their main degree). Any course that is offered as a joint-degree with Psychology will work with your Psychology timetable.

How many courses will I study?

All students including single and joint-honours students will take 120 credits of courses. Psych 1A and Psych 1B are each worth 20 credits. This means that in each semester you will study an additional 40 credits and typically this means two additional courses. If you are a joint-honours

student, at least one of these additional courses will be from your joint subject. The other courses you can choose are determined by the college you are in.

You can generally take any subject within your college as long as there are no timetable clashes and sometimes subjects outwith your college are possible depending on timetable clashes and space within that course. If you are a BSc student, two out of your three subjects per semester should be science courses (including Psychology).

When will we receive our timetable?

You will finalise your timetable when you enrol on all your courses in August/September and pick your labs and tutorial slots.

I have an offer for subject X but I would like to change my degree, is this possible?

It is possible to change your degree as long as you meet the entry requirements for your new subject, if you'd like to do this, please get in contact with our [Admissions Team](#) and they will be able to help you.

What is the difference between studying Psychology as a BSc or MA?

There is no difference in the Psychology courses you will take regardless of whether you are enrolled on a BSc, MA or MA (SocSci) programme. Rather, your programme will affect the additional subjects you take in Level 1 and 2, for example, if you're a science student you need two out of your three subjects to be science subjects. All of our single and joint-honours degrees are accredited by the British Psychological Society, regardless of which letters you will get after your name when you graduate.

Are there any opportunities to do research whilst studying psychology?

We have a wide variety of research studies that you can take part in as a participant when you join us but also there are summer internships on offer where you can join labs.

What jobs do Psychology students typically go on to do?

Our graduates have gone into a huge range of jobs! Some are working in more traditional psychology professional routes like Clinical, Educational, Occupational etc. but many go into a wide range of other routes. Data skills jobs are a huge area of recruitment at the moment and our graduates are working on managing big data sets, artificial intelligence and how we design the best robots for the future and others are working in voluntary sector changing the world for the better.

Is there a lot of statistics and programming in Psychology?

Data skills and programming is a big part of any accredited psychology degree but it's also an exciting part and in the first year we build it up really slowly to get everyone comfortable with it and you will be supported through this - we spend a lot of the first year looking at the problems of 'fake data' and why it is important to understand and be able to use data well. We don't introduce formal statistics until Level 2 until you're comfortable working with data and at all points there is a lot of support from office hours to the Peer Assisted Learning sessions that are led by students and PhD candidates who will take a lot of time to help you wrap your head around anything that you're not sure about.

Can I go on an international exchange if I study Psychology?

Yes! As long as you achieve the grades in first and second year there is the opportunity to study abroad in third year for all psychology students. In the past this has included universities in Europe, such as Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, Netherlands, University of Otago in New Zealand, University of New South Wales in Australia, and the University of California at either the Berkeley, Santa Barbara or San Diego campuses. The year abroad satisfies the requirements of the British Psychology Society. The programme has been in place for many years and the general consensus is that the year abroad is a rewarding and enriching experience.

Why should I choose Glasgow?

When considering where you should go to university, you need to think about the skills and knowledge that the degree programme will give you and how these will support you once you graduate and enter the employment market. At Glasgow you will develop collaborative and communication skills alongside data skills using open and large data sets. This will enable you to enter a wide variety of destinations following degree completion e.g. clinical, data analysis, academia. These are the types of skills that employers are looking for as they know you will be able to hit the ground running. We are fortunate not just to have international research experts on staff but we also have leading names in psychology education on staff - everything we do in relation to not just what we teach you but also how we teach you is evidence based and informed by the latest research